

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

**Listing of Claims:**

## 1. (Previously Presented)

Stapler comprising a main body (1) which includes a seat (2) for a row of staples (3, 13) and/or nails (12, 14) which are urged by a pusher (4) toward an ejection head (5), wherein a striker (6) can run in a direction substantially perpendicular to the feed direction of the row of staples (3, 13) or nails (12, 14) in the seat (2) for pushing and ejecting from the ejection head (5) the first staple (3, 13) or nail (12, 14) of the row, a mobile plate (7) being mechanically connected to a slider (8) which protrudes outside the main body (1), characterized in that by moving the slider (8) the mobile plate (7) can slide in the main body (1) from a rest position to an operative position for being arranged between the ejection head (5) and the striker (6) when the latter pushes the first staple (3, 13) or nail (12, 14).

## 2. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~the previous claim~~ claim 1, characterized in that the mobile plate (7) is mechanically connected to the slider (8) by means of a pin (9) housed in corresponding holes (21) made in the mobile plate (7) and in the slider (8).

## 3. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the mobile plate (7) can slide in a direction substantially parallel to the run direction of the striker (6).

## 4. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the main body (1) comprises two half-bodies (1a, 1b) which are mutually joined along a substantially vertical symmetry plane which crosses the striker (6) and the seat (2) for the staples (3, 13) or

nails (12, 14), wherein the slider (8) can slide in a guide (10) made in the front wall of the half-bodies (1a, 1b).

5. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~claims 2 and 4~~ claim 2, characterized in that the pin (9) connecting the mobile plate (7) to the slider (8) crosses an opening formed of two opposing notches made in the two half-bodies (1a, 1b) of the main body (1).

6. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the mobile plate (7) has a notch (11) along at least one side edge thereof, so that the width of the mobile plate (7) is smaller than the seat for the staples (3, 13) or nails (12, 14) in the ejection head (5).

7. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the slider (8) comprises a locking mechanism which includes two flexible arms (15) which are made in a single piece with the body of the slider (8) and are provided with teeth (16) protruding from the sides of the same slider, as well as an expander (17) which can slide in a guide (18) made in the central body of the slider (8) in a vertical direction equal to the sliding direction of the slider (8) in the main body (1), so that the expander (17), during its sliding in the guide (18) of the slider (8), expands outwards the flexible arms (15).

8. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~the previous claim~~ claim 7, characterized in that the guide (10) of the main body (1) is provided with side cavities, in which the teeth (16) of the flexible arms (15) can hook, so that when the latter are expanded outwards by the expander (17), the slider (8) cannot slide in the same guide (10).

## 9. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~claim 7 or 8~~ claim 7, characterized in that the expander (17) is provided with a pin (19) crossing an opening (20) made in the middle of the slider (8), so that this pin (19) can be moved with respect to the slider (8).

## 10. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~one of claims 7 to 9~~ claim 7, characterized in that two flexible arms (22) which are made in a single piece with the body of the expander (17) are provided with teeth (23) protruding from the sides of the same expander (17) for penetrating into corresponding cavities (24) made at the sides of the guide (18) of the slider (8), so that the expander (17) can be partially locked in its extreme lower and/or upper positions.

## 11. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the striker (6) is lower than 0.8 mm, while its width is comprised between 10 and 12 mm.

## 12. (Currently Amended)

Stapler according to ~~one of the previous claims~~ claim 1, characterized in that the thickness of the mobile plate (7) is lower than 0.5 mm, while its width is comprised between 9 and 12 mm.

## 13. (New)

Stapler according to claim 4, characterized in that the pin (9) connecting the mobile plate (7) to the slider (8) crosses an opening formed of two opposing notches made in the two half-bodies (1a, 1b) of the main body (1).

## 14. (New)

Stapler according to claim 8, characterized in that the expander (17) is provided with a pin (19) crossing an opening (20) made in the middle of the slider (8), so that this pin (19) can be moved with respect to the slider (8).

## 15. (New)

Stapler according to claim 8, characterized in that two flexible arms (22) which are made in a single piece with the body of the expander (17) are provided with teeth (23) protruding from the sides of the same expander (17) for penetrating into corresponding cavities (24) made at the sides of the guide (18) of the slider (8), so that the expander (17) can be partially locked in its extreme lower and/or upper positions.

## 16. (New)

Stapler according to claim 9, characterized in that two flexible arms (22) which are made in a single piece with the body of the expander (17) are provided with teeth (23) protruding from the sides of the same expander (17) for penetrating into corresponding cavities (24) made at the sides of the guide (18) of the slider (8), so that the expander (17) can be partially locked in its extreme lower and/or upper positions.